

## REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action mailed October 2, 2003, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. In response to this Office Action, and particularly to the Examiner's indication that claims 4-8/(2-3, 5 and 7) and claims 11-16/11-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants amended claims 4, 6, 13, and 14 incorporating the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims from which they depended. Applicant additionally canceled claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 15, 16, and 21. For these reasons, and the reasons set forth in detail below, presently pending claims 4, 6, 13, 14, and 17-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

### A. Previous Communications

In the Office Action Summary and in the body of the Examiner's Office Action, claims 1-16 are described as pending. However, on April 5, 2002, Applicants filed a Preliminary Amendment that amended originally presented claims 8 and 9 and added claims 17-21. Receipt of the Preliminary Amendment in the United States Patent and Trademark Office was confirmed by stamped post card. From the context of the Examiner's Office Action, it does not appear that this Preliminary Amendment was considered. Applicants respectfully request initial consideration of the Preliminary Amendment in the Examiner's next communication. Specifically, claims 17 and 19 depend upon claim 4. Additionally, claims 18 and 20 depend upon claim 6. Each of these dependent claims 17-20 depend upon independent claims that were amended to include allowable subject matter.

### B. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 1 because of an informality, where in line 6, "on inward" should have been corrected to read as "on an inward." Applicants appreciate the Examiner's comments, however, claim 1 was canceled in the present amendment, thereby making the previous objection moot.

The Examiner also objected to claim 4 because of an informality, where in line 7, "opens" should have been corrected to read as "open." Applicants appreciate the Examiner's comments and have made the proper correction as suggested in amended claim 4.

In view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's objection to claim 4 due to informalities.

**C. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 2-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, in claim 2, line 16, the Examiner rejected as indefinite the "pad of elastic material sandwiched between the open side of the housing and the circuit board."

Applicants amended claims 4 and 6 and rewrote them to incorporate the base limitations of claim 2, from which they previously depended. When incorporating the base limitations of claim 2, Applicants further amended claim 4 and claim 6 to provide additional clarification as to the "pad of elastic material sandwiched between the open side of the housing and the circuit board." Specifically, description of the location and structure regarding the pad of elastic material was added to amended claims 4 and 6 to now recite, "...in which there is a terminal block facing a second open side of the housing in which the diaphragm is fitted and fixed, and a pad of elastic material is sandwiched between the second open side of the housing and the surface of a circuit board on the side of the housing where a leaf spring projects, so that pressing the terminal fitting against the conductive pattern of the circuit board forms an electrical connection to the circuit board..." Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment properly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 4 and 6 and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

**D. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the combination of Maeda in U.S. Patent No. 6,590,991 (hereafter "the '991 patent") in view of Bleim et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,038,327 (hereafter "the '327 patent"). For the reasons set forth in detail below, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In light of the Examiner's indication that claims 4-8/(2-3, 5 and 7) and claims 11-16/11-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations

of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants amended claims 4, 6, 13, and 14 incorporating the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims from which they depended. That is, claim 4 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 6 was also rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 13 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claims 12 and 10. Claim 14 was rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claims 13, 12, and 10. As such, the combination of references cited fails to teach or disclose all features and limitations of claims 4, 6, 13, and 14.

Additionally, Applicants amended claims 4 and 6 to clarify the structure and mounting of the “pad of elastic material” as described above. Additional wording changes were made in the present Amendment to improve the readability of the amended claims. These changes were made by way of amendment to claims 4, 6, 13, and 14 rather than by canceling and rewriting the claims to underscore the fact that no new matter was added.

Dependent claims 17-20 add additional features and limitations to independent claims 4 and 6 and are allowable for at least the same reasons described above with regard to claims 4 and 6.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 4, 6, 13, 14, and 17-20 and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

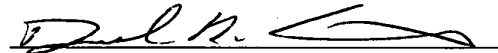
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**CONCLUSION**

Therefore, in view of the foregoing Amendments to claims 4, 6, 13, and 14, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of record be reconsidered in view of the Amendments and be withdrawn by the Examiner. It is further requested that claims 4, 6, 13, 14, and 17-20, thus be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the present application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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